

In the claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A garden stake support for use in ground including:
a lowermost portion adapted to engage and serve as a primary anchor to secure the stake support in a the ground surface;
an uppermost portion adapted to receive a stake therein;
an offset portion connecting said lowermost portion to ~~an~~ said uppermost portion ~~that such that said uppermost portion~~ is axially offset from said lowermost portion;
said offset portion including an open platform directly above said lowermost portion to serve as a hammer point when driving said lowermost portion into the ground surface.
2. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The garden stake support according to claim 1,
wherein the lowermost portion is, in use, located below the ground surface and
the uppermost portion is located above the ground surface
3. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The garden stake support according to claim 1,
wherein the lowermost portion consists of an I-shaped ~~open three-sided~~ channel
member wherein a first side element extends further and is longer than a second
side element and whereby at a lower end the lowermost portion forms a point.

4. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The garden stake support according to claim 3, in which a bottom edge extends slopingly between said first and second side elements and wherein said bottom edge includes an indented shoulder portion.
5. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The garden stake support according to claim 1, wherein the offset portion extends generally at right angles to the lowermost portion and includes a pair of spaced upper and lower parallel frame members.
6. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The garden stake support according to claim 5, wherein the lower frame member includes on an outer side thereof a curled tongue extension able to receive a water supply.
7. (Canceled).
8. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The garden stake support according to claim 5, wherein the uppermost stake portion consists of an open ended base section into which is fitted an interlocking upright section and wherein the base section extends upwardly from the frame members, said base section having a footprint that allows the upper frame member to form a narrow first ledge around the perimeter of the base section, said base section including adjacent an upper edge thereof but spaced therefrom an upper surrounding collar extending partially around the base section in line with the first ledge formed by the upper frame member.

9. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The garden stake support according to claim 8, wherein said lower frame member forms a narrow section ledge adjacent and around the bottom of the base section.
10. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The garden stake support according to claim 8, wherein a notch is cut into each of the first ledge and collar on opposing sides of the base member whereby the notches are axially aligned on either side of the stake base member, the arrangement of the frame members and notches in the first ledge and collar ~~combining~~ adapted to form a means for securing and directing a water supply from the a branch pipe member of a supply pipe to an elevated position.
11. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The garden stake support according to claim 8, in which the interlocking upright section is a snug fit in the open ended base section, said interlocking section consisting of an extrusion that in cross section takes the form of a back to back C-shaped element.
12. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The garden stake support according to claim 11, wherein said interlocking upright section is formed of two said interlocked back to back C-shaped elements forming a stable structure, said second back to back C-shaped element being partially located within one side of the back to back C-shaped element and further partially received in slots cut into an upper edge of the base member.

13. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The garden stake support according to claim 1, wherein the stake support further includes a removal wedge located below the offset portion, said removal wedge consisting of an asymmetric notch cut into a bracket extending downwardly from the offset portion, wherein the wedge may be used to lever an embedded stake.
14. Canceled.
15. (New) A garden stake support for retaining an elongated stake therein; said stake support comprising:
- a base having an upper and a lower surface and having a spaced-apart first and second end;
 - a first spike extending downwardly away from the lower surface of the base and near the first end thereof;
 - a second spike extending downwardly away from the lower surface of the base and near the second end thereof; the first spike being substantially longer than the second spike;
 - a receptacle extending upwardly away from the second end of the base; the receptacle being adapted to retain an end of the stake therein such that the stake extends vertically upwardly away from the second end of the base.
16. (New) The garden stake support according to claim 15, further comprising a platform formed on the upper surface of the base proximate the first end thereof;

said open platform laying substantially directly above the first spike.

17. (New) The garden stake support according to claim 16, wherein the platform comprises a substantially convex member adapted to receive hammer strikes thereon.
18. (New) The garden stake support according to claim 15, further comprising a curved extension extending outwardly away from the first end of the base; said extension opening upwardly and being adapted to receive a water supply pipe therein; and when the first and second spikes are driven into a ground surface, said curved extension is adapted to hold the water supply pipe above the ground surface.
19. (New) The garden stake support according to claim 18, wherein the upper and lower surfaces of the base are separated from each other by an intermediate region; and wherein the curved extension is integral with the lower surface of the base and extends outwardly away therefrom and curves upwardly toward the upper surface of the base and for a distance substantially equal to the thickness of the intermediate region.
20. (New) The garden stake support as defined in claim 15, further including a support bracket extending between a portion of the first and second spikes; and wherein the support bracket includes a V-shaped notch adapted to receive an

implement for lifting the garden stake support out of the ground.